Exclusion of Hotel Samrat from disinvestment list

317. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have of late, decided to exclude Hotel Samrat from disinvestment list;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether a part of the building would be leased to house the offices of Intelligence Bureau?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) The Government has not taken any such decision.

Disinvestment of VSNL

318. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have disinvested their shares in VSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the profits after tax and dividend paid by the company during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the price range of VSNL shares quoted in stock market during sale;

(e) the share prices of VSNL in February-March, 2000;

(f) whether it is also a fact that Government decided to prepone the ending of VSNL monopoly over international telephony in 2002 contrary to the agreement reached in WTO telecom services negotiations; and

(g) if so, to what extent this affected the sale proceeds of VSNL shares?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has disinvested 25% equity stake in VSNL in favour of Panatone Finvest Limited, a Tata Group Company at a consideration of Rs. 1439.25 crore.